

IN THE BACKGROUND

Issue #2

1978
LONDON

ONE WAY
SYSTEM

BOYVER 96

The
Inciters

Dropkick
murphys

LOWER-CLASS
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The Allstonians

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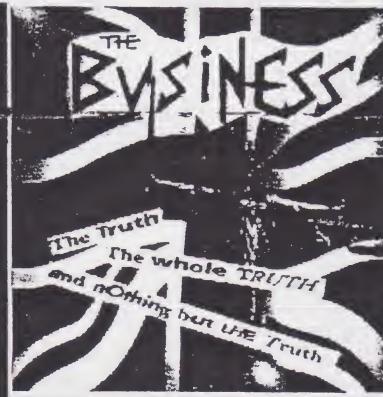
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IN THE WORKS FOR 1998



CANDIRIA BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

CANDIRIA BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

John Carter, "You don't see that kid in jail" the better of Hitler, Sonie, Youth, DJ Spooky, Biohazard and Phunklife, but Cannibal mostly plays better known New Yorkers to shame on it's own terms. "I'm Blew Away." Territorial, everyone's raving about Cannibal's mix of metal in fact, everyone's raving about Cannibal's mix of metal hardcore, jazz and Hip-Hop. You should be too!

AGAINST THE GRAIN

MENTIROSO

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ONE LIFE CREW

The hardcore album of '98 is right here. *Rebel* is around 00, going even further than their previous *Revere*. *Crime, Violence, Society* hitting hard on topics such as illegal immigration, welfare fraud, straight-edge and rape cops. Of course the music is full on hardcore, combining mosh sing-alongs with small doses of gangsta rap and nihilistic slurs that put the Jets Boys to shame. All that with break Isaac

THE HYPERBOLIC MIRROR

Strange notes...Another issue of In The Background is finished and done with. And it's about time,it's been awhile since that last one.Oh yeah,you'll notice that there's a bit more substance going into this one.Hey,always room for improvement,right?It's cool to see what started out as a six-page waste of paper turn into what you see here,a twenty-page waste of paper.But,no,really we're proud to feature the bands in this issue and the first one.In case you missed it,the first issue had THE TRUENTS,THE SUBVERSIVES, and THE GLG-TWENTIES.I still have a few copies of that lying around for anyone who wants to check that out. Like I said last time,we would still like to include articles,pictures,drawings, etc.,from others out there.So get off your lazy arse and send us your stuff.And any 7"s,tapes,or ads,too.That stuff helps out.Ad space is still FREE.And with the articles,no political manifestos or preachy bullshit.It's a waste of my time and yours.I also want to thank everyone who lent a helping hand in getting this together -First off,mad thanx go out to my boi,Ian for acting as co-conspirator and lending his writing talents to the magazine.Also,to The Jester for writing an article for us,hope to have more installments from him in future issues.And many thanx to...John at VULTURE ROCK,Dave at PUNK CORE,Anthony Torres & SJUGGO, Tommy and the rest of ONE WAY SYSTEM,Andy & Deidre and BOVVER 96,Bones and the LOWER CLASS BRATS,Matt Kelly & DROPKICK MURPHYS,Rick Kendrick and the IN-CITERS, Nigel and THE ALLSTONIANS,Mark & Tim at GMM Records,Shaun from THE TRUENTS, and also Johann for the classified in TEENAGE WARNING.If I forgot anyone, and I'm sure that I did,Thanx!

But as I was saying,it's cool getting to hear from people from all over through doing this.It keeps me up to date as to what's going on, and that's hard to do sometimes,what with living here in the middle of nowhere.Although,it is strange the amount of shows here lately,as well as the ones coming up in the next month. I mean,I sit here writing this trying to forget the fact that the Toy Dolls are playing tomorrow night at Twister's and I'm going to be working.Oh well,life goes on.It's good to see things pick up a bit around here,there hasn't been a whole lot going on in recent months.Anyhow,back to my point, and I guess this is my space where I get to relate some kind of story or personal experience.I like to leave this stuff to the emo/high school crowd and their zines but,hey,I need stuff to fill up these pages,right?So keep reading.Something that has been on my mind lately, and I guess that I've realized in the last three or four months is the fact that life is what you make it,even here on the Eastern Shore Of Va.Excuse me,I mean the Eastern Shithole Of Virginia.Yeah,that's it.I know that to some this is old news and most haven't even realized it yet.I've always known this to be true,it's just that it has finally hit home due to some things that have happened recently and I'll leave it at that.Plus the fact that no scene is without problems or a downside.For so long,I was so busy trying to find a way out of here that everything else was kind of forgotten.And don't get me wrong, this place is no paradise.Those of you who have been here know what I mean, and you're probably thinking that I've lost my mind.Maybe so,it wouldn't be the

first time.Or at least that's what they told me at the "home".Anyhow,I'm losing the point here.The point is that whether I'm here or on St.Marks,my life is basically the same.Not exactly,but you know what I mean.I'll wake up,go to work,hang out with friends, and come home, listen to records and go to sleep.Have a beer and go to a show,simple as that.The only things that missing are the bad attitudes and shit-talking that come with a larger scene, and who needs that?!I know that I don't want that shit!It makes the music and it's message even more clear.Oi and punk rock in general isn't just about where you live or hang out.It's how you live your life,making the best of it, and being honest with yourself & others. Or at least that's how I see it.And not just for punks &



skins, either. There's something there for everyone.

"Oi is about rock 'n' roll, havin' a beer, havin' a laugh, fighting back, it's our life, it's our show, our world, it's our way of life" - Gary Johnson, street punk poet extroldinaire. I know that quote has been used a million times, but it's the truth. If you're not happy with the way things are, take a look at the big picture. It starts with you, not the circumstances. With that said, I'm going to step down. Damn, that whole last part sounded like one of those Final Thoughts that Jerry Springer ends each show with. Very emo. I should really quit while I'm ahead. So, anyway, thanx for checking out the 'Background. Hope you enjoy this one. Here's a list of my current top ten picks. Check this stuff out if you haven't already. Until the next one, keep the faith!

-ROI

1. The Templars 'Phase Two' CD 2. Major Accident 'The Ultimate High' CD 3. The Trouble 'Crime And Punishment' 7" 4. The Truents 'Manhattan Express' 7" 5. West Side Boys 'The Oi. Years' LP 6. The Krays/Infiltrators split 7" 7. The Swingin' Utters 'Juvenile Product Of The Working Class' CD 8. Oxymoron 'The Pack Is Back' CD 9. V/A 'The Cockney Rejects Greatest Tribute' 7" 10. Chapter 21 'United In Anger' 7" and a million others.

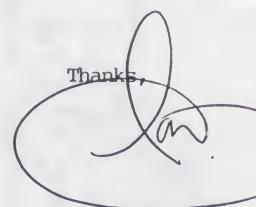
Oi! What's up? Well, this is my spot to say whatever, mostly a lot of thanks. First and foremost many thanks and much love to Roi for giving me the opportunity to work on such a fine publication! Also thanks to all those that helped out with this one like....Jester, Rick and The Fabulous InCiters, Dave at Punkcore, John at V.Rock, Mark at GMM, Noah at Moon, Nigel and all of The Allstonians, Anthony at Sluggo, Mike at DSS Canada, Johan at Teenage Warning zine (you should all buy T.W. because it's excellent!), the person at Pork Pie who's name I can't read (sorry), those anonymous people that sent stuff from TAANG! and Chord/TDH, and probably a ton of other people that I've forgotten. They know who they are and they know their help is appreciated. Our response has been great! I only hope that it gets better. If you got the last issue you'll notice that we've incorporated more ska into this one. That goes with the original idea to keep the zine balanced. We hope to incorporate some hardcore as well as rockabilly and other styles by the next issue. We here at IN THE BACKGROUND pride ourselves at being quite diverse. We hope to put all that together into one quality zine while trying to make it interesting for everybody. So if you're out there and need an outlet, don't be afraid to get in touch! Besides, a day without mail is a glum one for me, so write and tell me whatever. Also, we are always looking for people to help distribute us, so if you like it drop us a line for a list of wholesale prices. Anyway, once again, thanks to everyone that contributes to, distributes, or buys this zine. (Bollocks to the rest of ya's!) I love working for it and hope to do it for a long time. It's helped me reach out to people all over the world! Sometimes you can get the impression that the scene's going to die under the pressure of differences and the like, but when you get to do something like this, you realize that everything's going along just fine! Please, anyone that wants to get in contact for any reason, write me care of this zine or:

Ian Mangin
In The Background
P.O. Box 98
Melfa, Va.
23410
USA

Top 5 playlist this time around:

5. Bad Manners "Go"
4. Slackers "Watch This"
3. Dropkick Murphy's "Barroom Heroes"
2. Templars "Stars & Stripes"
1. Bovver 96' "OI! OI! OI!"
The InCiters "Mr. Clean"
Swingin' Utters "London Drunk"

Thanks,



← (Sorry, couldn't keep it to five this time)

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This interview with Andy of Philly's BOVVER 96 was done by Roi in Feb. The conversation started with talk of their local scene...

Andy: There's a lot of bullshit that goes on. You gotta be either a nazi or a sharp, like if you go to a show. We went to this one this weekend, it was awful! I mean, it wasn't too bad, but a majority of the time you have to put up with a lot of bullshit. It's pretty worthless around here, but I don't know. we try to spice things up a little, when we go out. Deidre and I have two kids, so it's hard to get out of the house sometimes.

Roi: The two 7" out and the Cockney tribute, how come about?

Andy: When we started writing to all these sending demo's and ahold of Mike from DSS touring with BLANC Germany and THE SERVICE We were supposed to do things didn't work out, play the last show after left. To make a long story bought some of our records mentioned that we did a Rejects

band has your on Rejects did that

playing we were different labels, stuff. I got we he was here ESTOC from from Milwaukee. that too r also, but we did get to BLANC ESTOC short, Mike and we cover, and he



96

asked us if we wanted to do this tribute he was doing, so we said sure.

Roi: That's cool, any plans for an LP sometime soon?

Andy: Yeah, actually we're supposed to go into the studio this month sometime. It's going to come out on Walwerk Recs.

Roi: Steelcomb Recs., is that the band's own label or something?

Andy: Yes and no. We're trying to get our shit together a little more. We're doing a split 7" with THE BITTER BOYS from Finland. The BITTER BOYS are good, they kick ass! They're going to be on 'Skins, Punks and Herberts Vol. 3 or so I've heard.

Roi: Favorite bands and influences?

Andy: Well, Deidre likes KLASSE KRIMINALE and she's into a lot of French oi! We all like all of the N.Y. bands like TEMPLARS. THE BRUISERS from Boston kick ass. We also listen to other stuff like CCR, and only me, I listen to country

music.

Roi: Speaking of CCR, have you heard the DUCKY BOYS cover of Bad Moon Rising?

Andy: Oh Yeah! We were going to cover that song. We saw them the other night and they were playing it.

Roi: I read in your Do A Runner interview that you guys played a country western bar a while back?

Andy: Yeah, RT's in Oakland N.J.. That was a trip man. It was fuckin' heavy metal night with all these "metal" people. I don't think that they understood us.

(laughs) The girls really liked Deidre. they were all like, "you're a female singer! I really love Heart."

(more laughs)

Roi: Wouldn't you agree that the U.S. has one of the best Oi!/Streetpunk scenes in the world right now?

Andy: Yeah it's good. Deidre and I have been to Europe and have a lot of pen pals over there. It does seem that they have more people that appreciate it, but as far as here in the states, we have some of the best bands. I'd say it's pretty good.

Roi: You and Deidre are married, how's that play into the band, is it ever an obstacle?

Andy: We try and (laughs) I'm not going to lie, it is sometimes. But like if we're sitting down and writing and stuff, it can go both ways. It can be easy and it can be hard. If we can't figure something out when we're practicing we tend to argue a little more. We try not to let the emotional side of our relationship get in the way of the band. It can though.

Roi: Are you guys going out anywhere on the east coast soon?

Andy: Well, right now we're trying to set up a show at





Coney Island High. We're scheduled to play a show at The Pipeline in N.J. in a month, and three shows in North Carolina. Ed frm PATRIOT is helping set those up. He's a friend of our'.

Roi: Alright, anything else you want to say?

Andy: Yeah, we're going to be on like four or five comps coming out and our LP will be out soon. Anyone reading this, try and get in touch with us 'cause we want to play anywhere. It doesn't matter where. Oh, and we have T-shirts available now for ten bucks postpaid. That should do it. Thanks man.

Contact BOVVER 96 at:

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS....Ok,new releases out soon on GMM Records,or is out by now Anyhow,here goes...LOWER CLASS BRATS'Rather Be Hated Than Ignored' CD,MURDER CITY WRECKS'Get Wrecked' CD, MAN'S RUIN and their long-awaited full length'Who You Callin' Cracker', U.S.CHAOS'We've Got The Weapons' CD,so keep your eyes peeled for this stuff Boston's up and coming Oi-boys THE TROUBLE are working on a new CD and a seven-inch to be released sometime in the near future,so there!

Also,I've been hearing that THE CASUALTIES are supposed to be rereleasing their debut '40oz.Casualty'seven-inch on what label,I don't know.But that's only a rumor as of right now.

And original copies of OXBLOOD's'Crime Stories'LP are all gone!That's right you poor bastards!!! Don't sweat it,the second pressing should be out by late March or April.The BATTLE CRY LP has been licensed to be released on CD by Pure Impact in Belgium, and will also include some '93 demo tracks.THE DEVOTCHKAS 7" has been delayed again because of recording problems, release slated for mid '98.They're a all-girl punk/Oi band from Long Island,NY...PAXTON BOYS have finished recording a new EP,also available in mid '98....Austin,Texas'clockwork skunk LOWER CLASS BRATS 'Punks,Skins,Herberts,&Hooligans'EP will be repressed with a different sleeve and the new album on TKO, and the CD on Punk Core Records

After the OPPRESSED and the COCKNEY REJECTS,next up in the Longshot tribute series from DSS Records will be a tribute to the godfathers of street punk,COCKSPARRER. That's definitely going to be one worth picking up.

Pork Pie Records is still collecting stuff for the United Colors of Ska Vol.3 and will also release the 'Skandal Vol.1 - Vol.4' on vinyl as a box set.Check it out.

Chord/Too Damn Hype Records who did the SMITHS tribute are also releasing a CLASH tribute soon.Some bands involved in the project are INSPECTOR 7, MURPHY'S LAW, SKINNERBOX, H2O, DEMONSPEED, CHRIS BRATTON TRIO, and others,so be on the look out for that.

...And last but not least,there's supposed to be a big soul extravaganza in Spain towards the end of the year.Keep in touch for details.If anyone else out there has any news of any kind or a correction of something we've printed here,let us know. After all,we don't want to be spreading any nasty rumors,now do we?

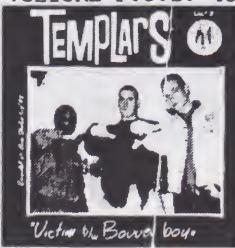
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The Inciters

I first found out about The InCiters from their interview in A Way of Life zine. Afterwards I ordered the demo tape and just fell in love! I started writing Rick who helped me get into other Northern Soul. This style of music, praised by the original skins has mainly been thrown by the wayside, but it's back in a big way. I was happy to be able to bring you an interview with the band that's right at the head of the comeback.

i-How many members are in The InCiters and what do they do?

r-Well, at this writing we have 10 members, but we've had as many as 14 at times. Now there's 3 vocals, Bill, Debbie & Susanah. Mitch on guitar, George on bass, Cory on drums, I play trumpet, Collin on trombone, Sam on bari sax, and Charlie on tenor. We're looking for a new keyboard player.

i-How long has the new cd been out and what other recordings are available?

r-It's been out for about two months now. The first pressing of 1,000 is almost sold out. We also have a 7" on Black Pearl Recs. and we've got two 7" due out soon. One on our label Mighty, the other is a split with my old band Durango 95 and that's on Oink.

i-Are there any other present day soul bands?

r-You know, I don't know of any doing what we do. Every towns got Motown cover bands, but no Northern Soul Style!

i-What bands should those getting into soul check out?

r-Oh man, that's impossible to answer! There is so much old soul with so many different styles. I would say to buy a few comps. Look for the Kent label, of course, and Goldmine and sequel have god comps to. My personal pick for skins & punks to check out is The Redskins. Definately soul for the working class! Then check out The Dexy's and start looking for singles, there should be a lot of them on the east coast.

i-How well is soul spreading? Are there good turn outs at your shows?

r-As I said earlier, soul is spreading really well out here, It's always been



big in England. When we play in L.A. it really goes off! Lots of times it depends on who we play with because most don't know what's up with soul. I mean we'll play a ska show and at first the kids are a little unsure, but after a few songs they lite up! More and more show up and start dancing instead of skanking. We've even played with punk bands and the punks dug us. Live we have a lot of energy. The only crowd that couldn't warm up to us is the swing crowd. We played with Royal Crown Review once, but I don't think we'll do that anymore.

i-You've mentioned possibly going to Spain & Germany, are the scenes bigger over there?

r-Yes, there's talk of sending us to Europe. As I said, Northern soul is huge there, and again I don't know of any bands out there, but the DJ scene is big.

i-There seems to be more female vocals on the cd than your earlier stuff, is that on purpose?

r-Well, we've always had more girls singing, but over all it's about 50/50. We've got more guy writers and it's hard for a guy to write a song for a girl, so it might end up with more male vocals for a while.

i-What other types of music do you listen to and how'd you discover soul?

r-In the early 80's I was apunk. Then I got into 2Tone, then deeper into the roots of ska and skinhead reggae. The guys I was hanging out with when Durango 95 started were really into soul. Now I listen to mostly soul, but also a lot of ska and reggae still and oi! and punk to. As a matter of fact the Toy Dolls are playing tonight and I love those guys!

i-Who owns and runs Mighty Recs?

r-Paul Moshay. When he first saw us he was working for Delicious Vinyl and managing the Brand New Heavies. He was starting his own label and wanted us to be one of the first bands on it. He only has a couple of others right now. A power pop band, The Gain. A longe style band, The Dudley Manlove Quartet. And he's done a few live punk albums, then there's us, go figure.

i-Who are your favorite band to play with, and who would you like to play with?



r-Everytime we play with HEPCAT it's great! We've played with Desmond Decker a couple of times, Selecter, Supergrass, and Let's Go Bowling also. And of course now the original Brenda Holloway. We would love to play with some of the old soul acts!

i-What are some of the songs the band covers, and why did you choose them?

r-We do The Redskins "Lean On Me", it's very fast and powerful, and Bill is very much a union man. That's what The Redskins Other than that Thomas' "Come Everett's "Too "B-A-B-Y" by we needed a slow stuff is pretty, i-What's in the InCiters?

r- more (Europe and coast), a couple Playing a lot i-Any closing

r-Yeah, Skins, Punks, whatever, be willing to listen to some broaden your the scene fresh therefore you'll longer. Too if you don't like it, but you always.....



were all about. we've got Don On Train", Bety Hot To Hold" Carla Thomas cause song. Most of our uptempo. future for The

recording, touring possibly the east of singles soon. in California! comments? Rudies, Mods, you should always at least try to thing new and horizons. It keeps and exciting and probably stay in it many come and go. Hey, like it, you don't never know. And KEEP THE FAITH!

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FROM THE INSIDE

"TRYING TO BE PART OF WHAT YOU SEE. BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD - ONE FAMILY."

- WARZONE -

"EVEN IF YOU PUT SOME OF US AWAY, THERE'LL BE MORE THAT'S FOR SURE."

-STARS & STRIPES-

Before I actually start with this I just want to let everyone know that I'm not bitching or whining. I realize that my actions put me where I'm at. I accept that and must live with the consequences.

The reason why I am writing this article is to hopefully remind people about fellow brothers and sisters who are currently incarcerated, doing time in one system or another, removed from the scene.

Living inside the walls is a completely different life than that of the 'Freeworld'. No more hanging out with your pals, going to shows, and having a laugh. Those days are gone. And more often than not, the right to wear your own clothes and listen to your own music too. You might not think that's much, but like they say- you never realize what you have until it's gone. You slowly lose touch with family, friends, and the scene.

So it's important for you to think of that one person you might know that got sentenced to do a little time. Maybe drop them a few lines asking them how they're doing. Or maybe send a few photos or something that will keep them in touch with the outside and give them a little hope. People who have never been locked up just don't understand how good it feels to get a letter from someone who means something to them. It makes you feel worth something, remembered. That you're not just another number.

FROM THE INSIDE
(cont.)

We're always talking about unity. Well, shouldn't that include those removed from the scene also? Those who were there for you when they could be. Think about it. Put yourself in their boots.

Well, I hope this has reached a few of you all. Maybe it will make a difference, maybe it won't. It's just something that I had to get off my chest. At least I've tried.

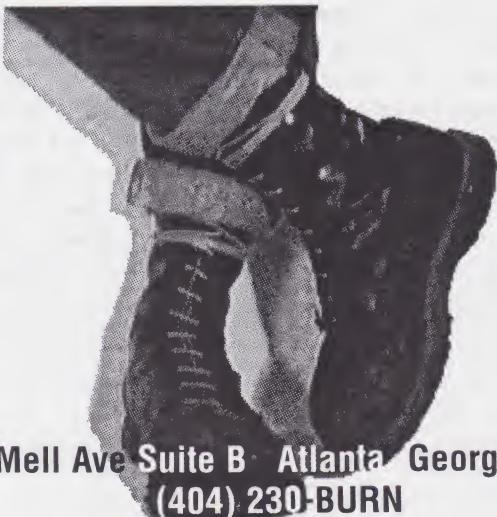
To those on the inside, hang in there. It will all be over soon. Keep the faith and always hold your ground!!

**S.C.A.R. '91 BOY,
JESTER**

Any and all comments or replies, mail to:

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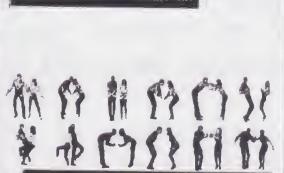
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ONE WAY SYSTEM

As if this band needs an introduction (they don't), ONE WAY SYSTEM originally formed in 1979 and went on to turn out a number of singles that would later become punk classics. Two albums and five years later they split ways. Now in 1998, they are back with a new singer & a new bass player and are back in full force. Let me stop running off at the mouth, on with the interview, done with original member and drummer, Tommy...

ROI-Alright, so when did One Way System actually reform?

TOMMY-OWS got back together eventually after numerous attempts, late 1992-early '93.

ROI-And at what point did Gavin leave and when did Lee step in?

TOMMY-Gavin has been gone for eight to nine months, but we tried to keep his interest for maybe two years. After we found out his decision, Lee stepped in straight away and since then things have gone from strength to strength.

ROI-And for those who don't know, the current line-up is...?

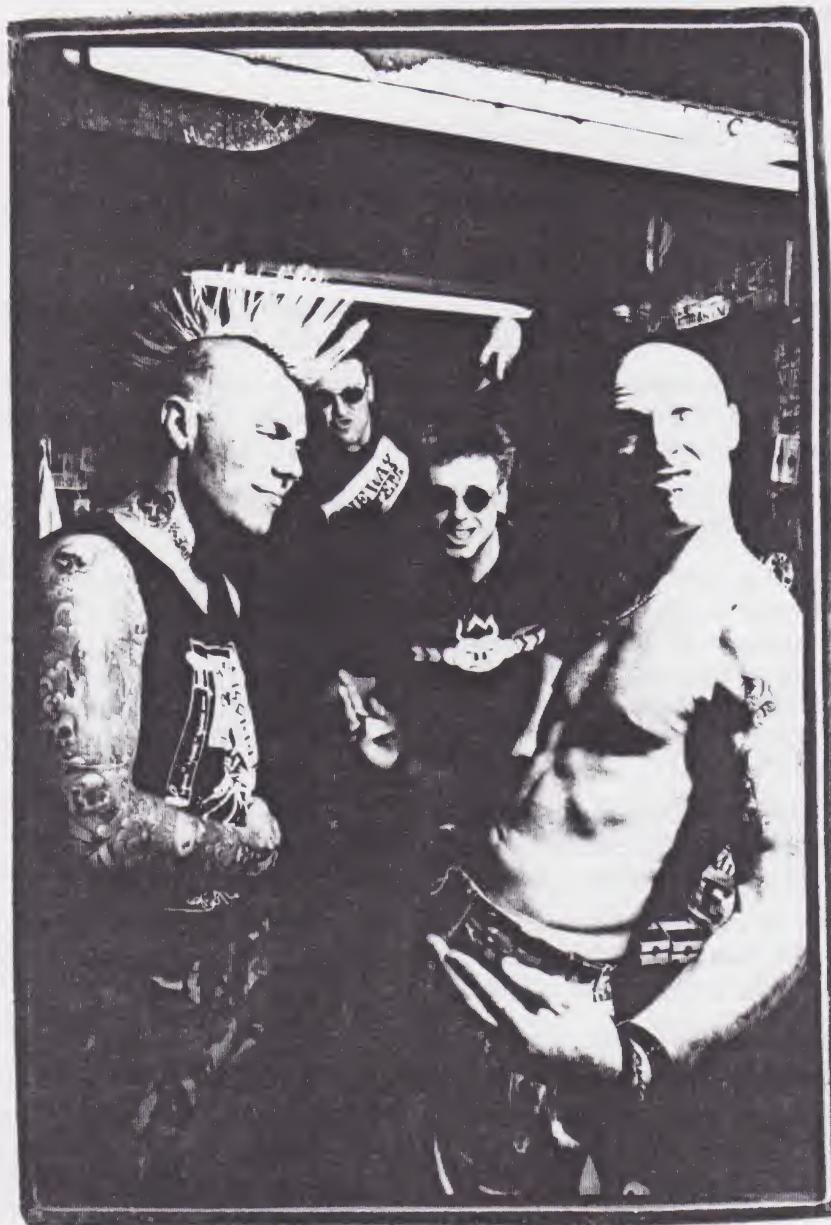
TOMMY-The current line-up is Lee Havoc on vocals, Andy Wilks on bass, Dave Ross on guitar, and Tommy Couch, drums.

ROI-The band formed in 1979. What bands and sounds were influential in the beginning?

TOMMY-The sounds we were listening to when we first formed-The Ruts, Killing Joke, UK Subs, Stiff Little Fingers, GBH, Dead Kennedys, The Clash, all these and more were all very influential.

ROI-Ok, from then up until now, what changes, if any, have you noticed in the scene?

TOMMY-Changes within the scene. Well, I think that with age



behind it, I think that it has become more acceptable in the media's eyes. People aren't afraid to look and listen, and the more looking and listening, the stronger the scene gets. That's good in my eyes, but no doubt someone will disagree. Also, in England, there seems to be less violence at gigs and more people having fun. Less division, more unity.

ROI-What do you think of the current crop of street punk/Oi bands that are around?

TOMMY-The amount of excellent bands worldwide is great, i.e. Braindance, The Unseen, Roadrage, M.O.M., GunDog, DFA, Humpty Dumpty, The Truents, The Casualties, SDF, The Creed, The Griffin, The Krays, Allegience, etc, etc. The list is endless. After twenty or more years, the scene is being respected.

ROI-I know that for a long time, it seemed that the scene in the UK was dead. Has it improved any, is it getting better?

TOMMY-Yes, the scene in England is getting much better. There are more and more places to play. More people attending the gigs, less violence. Like I said earlier, it's fuckin' ace!

ROI-What was your impression of the shows that you guys did here in the States last September?

TOMMY-The shows in the States last summer were excellent. We all enjoyed them, the politics surrounding them were a bit shite, between us and management. Less about that, the better they know who they are. We also met a lot of sound people after the shows. Thanx go out to the bands that helped us out- Blanks 77, The Unseen, The Krays, Sid The Vid, Distraught, Val, and more. Cheers!

ROI-On the new CD, 'Leave Me Alone', the band's sound is musically heavier. What influenced the sound on that recording? Or did it just happen to turn out that way?

TOMMY-As a band, we are influenced by each other. The sound on 'Leave Me Alone' was not preconceived. We just saw it as picking up where the second album left off.

ROI-And are there any plans for a full-length release in the near future?

TOMMY-We are hoping to have a new album out before summer. We have to finish a few bits of recording and deal with management. Shit that I spoke about earlier. Namly, John Bentham & his money-spinning Visionary company. We now take care of our business ourselves much better.

ROI-And how did the band end up with Cleopatra for the CD?

TOMMY-Cleopatra was just another John Bentham money-spinner for himself. We had no say in any of that release, the bastard.

ROI-Alright, One Way System played at the Fuck Reading Festival in 1996. What was that like and who else was on that bill?

TOMMY-The Fuck Reading shows are great to play at and so are all of the other major festivals in England, i.e. Holidays In Sun, The Autumn Gatherings, etc, etc. At Fuck Reading, it was us, Peter And The Test Tube Babies, they played. The Exploited headlined. Also, The Business played and MadBall.

ROI-Alright, what are the future plans for One Way System?

TOMMY-The band will carry on playing anywhere and everywhere. Also, to get the new LP released somehow, and keep pushing forward. Educate the ignorant, entertain the stagnant. Cheers!





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There seems to be a problem in our scene. Well I guess that there's a lot of problems, but I can't force people into moral change, so I won't even try. All I intend to do is just what this here fine magazine intends to do, highten awareness. Many of us have a very closed minded approach to music, which I feel is sad. Now wait a minute, you say, take a look around, how can you say that we are closed minded about music? I thought that we were the musicaly free! At least some of us would say that. I get the impression that many people in the scene see things the same way. I must point out though that most of these people are the musicians, who I feel have a greater understanding for this. Reason being is that they realize that you need many styles to come together to make a truly fresh product. Time and time again people have said that they feel that the scene would die without diversity. Actually I don't think that it die, but would probably become unbearably stale, which is definately worse. It realy is possible to like several different types of music. People outside the scene can't understand how I can get off to oi! and ska! Look at how different they are! What a lot of people inside the scene don't realize is that there's a ton of music inbetween. Now let me clear something up, I don't think that I'm better than anyone else. There are plenty of things that I'm ignorant to also, if anyone wants to tell me about them, please feel free to do so, after all, I'm making you sit through this! and I'm not telling you to embrace Hanson, far from it! Just pay attention to whats around you. These bands work there butts off for you! It's a shame that lot's of them can't make it because they simply get ignored. If you took the time you just might realize the similarities between styles, probably brought to you by the fact that the band listens to everything and incorporates that to their sound. Music is the common link between all of us, open your mind a little and you could

expand the scene.....then who knows what will happen!

-IAN

Working Class Nobody Oi! Fanzine

Issue # 4(Finally Out)

“NO NEED TO FIGHT OVER THIS ISSUE”

In this issue you will find interviews with The Stouts, Runnin' Riot, and The Templers. Along with reviews and a view of some skingirl pic's I have gathered together. Send \$1.50(or 1\$ & 32 cent stamp) U.S., 2\$ RoW to:

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The Allstonians!



This is an interview that Ian conducted in March with Nigel Knucklehead of The Allstonians.....

ITB: Who's in The Allstonians now?

N: Well, there's Carl on vocals, and he does some writing, David on drums, he's been in for about a year, Jim on bass, Ken Cook on guitar, he used to play in J.C. Superska, myself on keyboards and vocals. Right now we're looking for a few new horn players because TBone is leaving to start a bicycle business, And our trombone player is getting bigger and better gigs, so he'll be leaving soon. Kid Woodruff is still in and out on alto sax.

ITB: Mixing it up some.

n: Yeah, it happens. I don't know if you knew about it but we lost four members about a year ago. They wanted to go more god damn hippy music, and we wanted to stay with the ska and they said it was going to go their way or they were leaving, so we said later!

ITB: Is everyone in the band into ska, or do they listen to other types of music?

N: People, like our drummer David, come into the band just wanting to play music and have a slight knowledge of ska and reggae, Then they learn the music and now he's wild for it. I used to hate reggae because I thought it all sounded the same.

ITB: Before I knew better I used to hate it because I thought it didn't have any energy.

N: Exactly. I was a ska fan but not a reggae fan. Once you understand what they're doing, and I hate to sound like this, but it really is an African way of thinking about music. Yknow, they're not hitting things straight on, they're making different sounds.

ITB: Since it takes so many members to do a ska band, is it hard to find members?

N: At first yeah. When we started we went through ten people that we booted after a month because they just didn't get it. It's easier to pick people up after you have a name. Horn players are hard. We've trained six drummers. In total there's been 38 Allstonians members. The hardest position to train is the bass.

ITB: How come?

H: Because people think that it's easy. That's why a lot of new ska bands have these almost "rock" basslines. People don't realize the importance, everything sits on top of that. You could actually have a reggae band, if put together right, with only bass and drums. You wouldn't miss the other stuff. That's where dub comes from. The bass and drums would be on one side of the mix and everything else would be on the other and the DJ's would pull them up and down. We do Rockford Rock with a real slow reggae beat, and when our soundman is there it really sounds like dub, I think the audience appreciates that.

ITB: I heard that you guys went to Europe, how was that?



N: Oh, we're still suffering the depression from coming back! A lot of beer was had, it was a lot of fun. I think we're going back in the fall.

ITB: Any touring plans for the states?

N: Yeah, we've got a couple of things in the works. (He proceeds to tell me some great shit! Sorry buster, can't tell ya, but keep your ear to the ground because it's hot!)

....and then we're going out on our own in August. (Also for all you locals they'll be playing at The Warehouse in Va. Beach on May 15, so I expect to see all of you there with your dancing shoes on!)

ITB: You've got a lot of cool stuff going on.

N: Yeah, it's starting to work, finally after two years!

ITB: The traditional sound is getting bigger, what do you think about that?

N: It's cool that people are getting into it. Hepcat! Their cd is produced unbelievably, they got good Jamaican sounds on that.

ITB: What are some of the songs the band covers?

N: Let's see, we do 'Highjack', 'Love and Affection', 'Death in the Arena' a ska version of 'Making Woopie'. We try to stay away from the norm.

We somehow embark on a long conversation that summarizes as: Lee Perry is GOD!!! Buy all of his records!

.....when I work in the studio I get many ideas from him. I hear he's touring now. I'd love to go see him.

What about this east coast west coast thing? (Hey, I thought I was asking the questions here...)

ITB: That's a bunch of shit! That's got to come up in every scene. I think it really sucks because I feel that it prevents a lot.

N: Stubborn did go kinda far with that 'Open Season' song, insulting every band out there. hepcat finally answered and it's hilarious! it shoves it right back in their face.

ITB: i think they needed that. I mean come on, you're good, but you're not that good.

N: And they are good.

ITB: Good musicians we'll say. I think that somrtimes they try to be too traditional.

N: And what's with the fakin jamaican? Everyone knows you're an Italian kid fron Brooklyn. It's that whole N.Y. Ska Mafia, and maybe I shouldn't say this, but they think they're the be all end all of ska.

ITB: They credit themselves for bringing it back.

N: What gets me is bands like The Slackers, who are big on traditional now, were a ska/punk almost oi! band when I first time I saw them. At the same time Hepcat superceeded us. So for anyone to say they brought it back is bullshit.

ITB: It's got nothing to do with the bands, it's the people. You can play whatever you want, if the fans don't want to hear it you're just playing to yourself.

N: Good point! you wouldn't be playing if no one wanted to hear you.

ITB: Anyway, the word from the boston area now is all about oi!, what other ska comes from there?

N: Beat Soup is starting to get it together. And there's The Agitators, and Thumper, who originated ska-core despite popular belief. And Skavoozie who I heard went full time.

ITB: Wow, thar's a big step.

N: Yeah, and good for them!

ITB: So what's the future hold?

N: Well, our video is in limbo, but we'll finish that and we'll be recordig in Sept. and Oct. We're going to try it like The Skatalites used to. And lots of playing, if you want to book us call Squad 16 at (800)828-4952.

ITB: Well, thanks for the interview and I wish the band continued success.



the KRAYS

the INFILTRATORS

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THE NO FUTURE YEARS ROW BELONGS

THE POGUES



- BOOT PARTY 'BRICKS TO CONCRETE'LP** This is one that has been out for awhile but I'll review it anyway. Eleven hard-hitting tunes here. I had some of these songs on a tape that someone gave me, but I finally got the entire album from Vulture Rock. Best one on here is "Working Class Thug". Brickwall Oi from California. Get this and start stompin'! Vulture Rock Records (see ad for address)
- THE BURDENS 'WORKING CLASS JOKE'CD** Another outfit from California. This is good. Snotty punk that reminds me of 80's So. Cal stuff. The song writing on this stands out. 15 tracks that will stick in your head, especially "Putting Me Down" & "Attitude". I'd like to see these guys make it to the East Coast sometime soon.
GMM Records P.O. Box 15234 Atlanta, GA 30333
- CHAPTER 21 'UNITED IN ANGER'7"** Love the cover art on this one. Two tracks from this Chicago-based Oi band. "United In Anger" backed with "Our Life". The vocals remind me of another band and I can't think of who the hell it is. Anyhow, take my word for it, this is very worth having. Oh, and Perry of Templars fame plays bass on this release. Another one from Vulture Rock.
- THE KRAYS/INFILTRATORS 'WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHO'S LEFT' split 7"** Another split with two New York bands. Of course, we have the Krays with the song "Radio" that's kinda infectious, and a cover of the Who's "Won't Get Fooled Again". We're all waiting for a full-length from these guys. Next up are the Infiltrators who I've never heard before this. They have a sound similar to the Krays but faster, four songs from them Welfare Records 23 Lexington Ave. #424 New York, New York 10010
- LOWER CLASS BRATS 'PUNKS, SKINS, HERBERTS, & HOOLIGANS' 12"EP** I first heard these guys when I got a copy of their 'Ultraviolence'7", and I've liked 'em ever since. Pure and simple clockwork Oi from Texas. LCB gives us five bootboy anthems on this EP. "Russian Roulette" by fellow Texas punks The Chumps is covered by them on here. "Bite The Bullet" is my favorite. As stated on the cover, "100% Street Punk", which pretty much says it all. Out of print but Punk Core Records is going to be putting out a reissue of this with a different cover, or so I've heard.
Punk Core Records P.O. Box 916 Middle Island, NY 11953 (see ad)
- THE SUBVERSIVES 'TOMMOROW BELONGS TO NO ONE' 12"EP** Their first EP. This was the first stuff that I heard from this Minneapolis Oi/punk band. Five tracks including an early version of "I Don't Wanna Know", also on their LP. If you haven't heard the Subversives yet, make sure this is the next record you buy. (See interview in the first issue of this fine publication). You guessed it, Vulture Rock Recs.
- THE SUBVERSIVES 'PROTEST AND DANCE'LP** So nice we reviewed it twice. I'll say it again, fifteen streetpunk classics that remind one of all the UK bands of yester-year. One Way System, Menace, early-Exploited. You know, the good stuff. Hope to hear their new EP soon.
Step One Records P.O. Box 21 Tenterden, Kent TN30 7ZZ England
- ULTIMA THULE 'THE EARLY YEARS 1984-1987'LP** Ok, the originators of the "Viking-Rock" sound. I'll admit, the first time that I heard this I wasn't all too into it. It took a few times listening to it for it to grow on me. I guess I'm the only one, 'cause everyone else seems to swear by this band. They have their own blend of Oi and rock with a heavy folk influence. A must have for those looking for something different. The full-color artwork on the cover is great. Oh, and the first pressing of this comes with a neat little mini-poster. Give it a try. Vulture Rock Recs.
- WEST SIDE BOYS 'THE OI! YEARS'LP** As far as I understand, this is a complete discography of the band's output. Nineteen cuts including EP material, comp tracks, & singles. I love this record! Solid Oi from France with a good sound, really tight. It is all sung in French, but they've been kind enough to include a lyric sheet that's in English. Definitely one of the best albums I've gotten in awhile. One more from Vulture Rock.
- LAST CALL 'S/T'7"** Another band that I'm hearing for the first time. Catchy punk rock from Atlanta. They're kinda like a rough Swingin' Utters or something. Three songs with lyrics you can easily relate to. GMM Records

- THE IN-CITERS 'MOVIN' ON'CD I absolutely love this band!They used to be Durango 95 when they started reviving the soul scene in California.Now they're following up their demo tape with this eight-song cd with great 6T's style soul.Two of these songs are from the tape, but the rest are all new.Great female vocals and tons of horns.The best song on this is "Mr.Clean".Anyone that loves traditional ska should get this.Available from Rick Kendrick(see interview for address) -IAN
- LEE PERRY 'ARKOLOGY'3CD set This is a great box set that covers the career of ska and reggae genius Lee Perry.There are 52 amazing tracks on here that show Perry at his best with the different bands & people that he worked with.This set also comes with a fat booklet full of pictures and the story of Lee Perry's career.Any one who's into true reggae has got to get this,it's out on the Island Jamaican division of Island Records. -IAN
- THE JUMPSTARTS '...JUST A LITTLE BIT'CD This disc actually came out in 96, but recently I found out that it's still available, so get it!Any fan of traditional music is a deprived individual if they are without this.The six songs that practically define the word smooth mix traditional ska,soul, and a few other styles are touched on for good measure.An upright bass gives some unique sound also.I can't wait until we can hear something else from this Chapel Hill,NC outfit (hint,hint) \$9 postpaid from The Jumpstarts P.O.Box 1286 Chapel Hill,NC 27514 -IAN
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT 'PASS THE BREW'7" An excellent seven-incher from another N. Carolina band.Mid-tempo streetpunk with gravelly vocals.Singalongs abound,especially in the song "Riot" and the title track "Pass The Brew".This is American Oi, kids.Chalk up another one for GMM Records -P.O.Box 15234 Atlanta,GA 30333
- KLASSE KRIMINALE 'I RAGAZZI SONO INNOCENTI'CD Hey,it's Klasse Kriminale!This cd originally came out in 1993 on the Twins "love music,hate politics" Records label.Check out the great Alteau illustrations in the booklet.Also included are the lyrics in English for those of us who don't speak Italian.All of the power and feeling is there.It's hard to compare Klasse Kriminale to another band.Let's see uh,melodic Oi with some experiments with ska and reggae.Musically,it kinda reminds me of the Clash at times.Nice one.
- V/A 'COCKNEY REJECTS GREATEST TRIBUTE VOL.1'7" Last issue we reviewed the 'Urban Soldiers' Oppressed tribute from DSS.This tribute to the Rejects follows it up with four great covers from BOVVER 96, THE AUTHORITY, FIRST STRIKE, & THE TROUBLE MAKERS. Job well done.We're looking forward to the Cocksparrer tribute that should be next in this series.Pick this and the Oppressed tribute (w/TEMPLARS,IMPACT,12 POINTBUCK, and THE UMPIRES) from D.S.S.Records -85 Paul Rd. Kamloops,BC Canada V2C 6T1
- V/A 'VULTURE ROCK PROMO EP'7" Five bands here from the Vulture Rock catalog.Included are songs from BOOT PARTY(Ca),BLADE(Japan),WEST SIDE BOYS(France),THE REVOLT(Ca), and an unreleased track from THE SYSTEM(NH).The last two I hadn't heard until this.All in all, a good sampler.On Vulture Rock, of course.
- V/A 'KNOCKOUT IN THE 2ND ROUND'CD After Vol.1,'Knockout In The 1st Round', another strong showcase of what's available on the Knockout label.Twenty-four tracks of everyone from psychobilly greats,THE METEORS,to long-time punx SPECIAL DUTIES,even the ska stylings of LOS PLACEBOS.I can honestly say that there's not one bad track on this.You know how compilations usually have those one or two weak spots.Not here. Shit! OXYMORON,STAGE BOTTLES,FUNERAL DRESS,TEMPLARS,THE REBELS,RED FLAG 77,GLORY STOMPERS, PATRIOT, LOIKAEKIE, THE DISCOCKS, as well as a strong track by street rock faves THE CRACK.This is a little piece of heaven for only \$5.95.Buy this now!!! Better yet, buy the albums from where these tracks were taken, you won't be sorry. Knockout Records, Postfach 100 716,46527 Dinslaken,Germany (see ad)
- V/A 'UM GRITO DE UNIAO VOL.1'LP Three of South America's finest on this comp. HISTERIA,VIRUS 27, and BANDERIA DE COMBATE give us a taste of Brazil, and the fact that Oi lives on in Brazil is well-represented.Strong and fast is how these 18 tracks hit you,a powerful early-eighties sound from all three of these bands. Stomper material!!! \$13.00 ppd from Vulture Rock Records (see ad)

- THE TEMPLARS 'PHASE TWO'CD The new full-length from one of my favorite American Oi bands. Actually, the stuff on this was recorded over a two year period between 1994 & '96. I've always respected the Templars not only because they make good music but because they they've always stuck to their own original sound. No doubts about it, this is the Templars! Faves here are "Worth My While", "Don't Do Anything", and "Land Of The Free", though it's all good.
DIM Records Postfach 1718 D-96407 Coburg, Germany
- THE TEMPLARS 'DANS LES CATACOMBS DU STUDIO DE L'ACRE 1993-1995'LP This is a new release from Vulture Rock Records. This is a collection of demo stuff, out-takes, & import-only tracks. Some of this stuff I've never heard and I don't know what it is from since I'm looking at a copy of the test pressing. Hey, the tracks from Super Yobs Vol.1 are on here as well as two of the songs from the 'Clockwork Orange Horrorshow'7". That much I know. Pick this one up while you can. First 2,000 with a free poster. Write to Vulture Rock for info. P.O.Box 40104 Albuquerque, NM 87196
- BAD MANNERS 'DON'T KNOCK THE BALD HEAD'CD When I was first getting into ska I kept hearing about Manners, but couldn't find any of their stuff. When I finally did, they had been built to such a high expectation that they fell short. Eventually I did come to enjoy lots of their music for what it was and is, great ska! Bad Manners is the only Two Tone band to keep the same great sound without letting it get stale. This could be some of their best work. The music is good, tons of horns and organ, plus some harmonica which I think sounds great and usually gets ignored. Pork Pie Records, available thru MoonSka - IAN
- MAJOR ACCIDENT 'THE ULTIMATE HIGH'CD This album is quickly becoming one of the best that I own. Major Accident have always been good, but this is fuckin' great! It's got so much energy in it, but what I like most about it is the talented playing and the variety of the songs. Variety being something that's lacking with a lot of Oi bands these days. It's definitely worth getting, whether you're a fan of Major Accident or not. GMM Records (see ad) - IAN
- OXYMORON 'THE PACK IS BACK'CD Yes! The follow-up to 'Fuck The Ninties...'. This may very well top that album. The Oxy-bois pound out another one worthy of all the hype that this is bound to receive. Songs about coppers, drinking, and how crazy the world is in general. Another hammer out of Germany! Get this!
Knockout Records Postfach 10 07 16, 46527 Dinslaken, Germany
- TOY DOLLS 'THE HISTORY 1979-1996'dbl.CD Ah, two discs worth of the Toy Dolls! All of those crazy, wacky punk tunes that ya love are here including my faves "P.C. Stoker" and "The Lambrusco Kid". While never known for being dead-on serious with their lyrics, Olga once even described their songs as "pretty childish & infantile" Off the wall sense of humor dominates this territory, along with some quick punk numbers. This set is a real gem, with a booklet that traces their confused history, a complete discography, and a gig list of their entire career right up to '96. forty-one cuts in all. By the way, the new Toy Dolls album, 'One More Megabyte', is out now on Rotten Records as you probably already know. This 2cd set is on- Reciever Records - Twyman House 31-39 Camden Road, London NW1 9LF
- SWINGIN'UTTERS 'JUVENILE PRODUCT OF THE WORKING CLASS'CD Their next record that comes close to blowing their debut LP, 'Streets Of San Fransisco', out of the water. "One In All" is very Pogue-ish, with a real street feel to it. Sticks to your bones this one. A full sixteen tracks of the Utters. I have only one request of this band, let's hear that cover of SLF's "Here We Are Nowhere" one more time, the best. These guys left NRA and switched to Fat Wreck Chords?! I don't know, this is good. I got my copy from Angry, Young, & Poor mailorder (see ad)
- THE TROUBLE 'CRIME AND PUNISHMENT'7" Another promising band from the Boston area. This is four songs worth of heavy Oi with some touches of hardcore thrown in for good measure. Definitely for those into Dropkick Murphys or Ducky Boys. What else can I say. Nice one. Man, I suck at writing these things! GMM Records (see ad)

•V/A 'NEW YORK'S FINEST'VIDEO A great video compilation with some of the New York area's top bands. Every bit of the footage is clear and you can actually tell what you're watching. Eighteen bands including THE TRUENTS, BANNER OF HOPE, OXBLOOD, FIRST STRIKE, THE TEMPLARS, URBAN RIOT, THE CASUALTIES, THE KRAYS, SKIZMATICS, L.E.S. STITCHES, BOTTOM OF THE BARREL, VIOLENT SOCIETY, and more! Cheap price, too!

Write to -Welfare Video Box#274 1214 W.Boston Post Rd. Mamaroneck, NY 10543

•V/A 'UNITED COLORS OF SKA VOL.2'CD This is kinda old, but I just got it so I'll review it anyway. This has got some great songs from bands all over the world, when some of them weren't as well known. Sometimes I look around and feel like it's getting harder and harder to find good ska, but a disc like this reminds me that there's still lots out there. And Pork Pie put it all together for you, how nice.

Pork Pie Records Forster Str.4/5 10999 Berlin -IAN

•V/A 'THE WORLD STILL WON'T LISTEN'CD A tribute to the Smiths. I still love the Smiths, even after all these years. They're just one of those bands that have really stuck with me, so when I heard that there was a tribute out, I had to have it. Most of these songs sound nothing like the originals, but they're great songs in their own right, and have even turned me on to some of the hardcore bands on here. Fans of the Smiths should pick this up and check out YOUTH BRIGADE, THE MEATMEN, EDGEWISE, SLAPSHOT, 59 TIMES THE PAIN, and the almighty BUSINESS.

Too Hype/Chord Records (see ad for address) -IAN

•V/A 'SKANKAHOLICS UNANIMOUS'CD Under The Influence Of Ska. This is dedicated to two of the ITB staff's most loved pastimes, drinking and ska! Who could ask for any thing more?! Some of the songs are repeats, but most are on here for the first time. Although most are good songs, they're hardly the best efforts for some of these bands, but it's still worth getting. I love J. Worley's artwork, too. So grab a beer and a friend and check it out. Moon Ska Records (see ad) -IAN

•THE DUCKY BOYS 'NO GETTIN'OUT'CD Holy retro Batman! Boston's the bangin'out great bands like it's 80's hardcore again! This time it's the Ducky Boys playing great punk rock with a host of other elements in there. Here's something that's amazing -real lyrics, and lots of 'em. This disc practically screams self-pride. Learn how to tell your ex, your boss, and other undesirables that you'll survive. All that & a cover of the CCR classic "Bad Moon Risin'" (sorry Andy!-Roi) to boot. -IAN

GMM Records P.O.Box 15234 Atlanta, GA 30333

•THE RANDUMBS 'IT'S ABOUT TIME'CD Ya know, I would have loved this like five years ago. The music is good, reminds me of early California stuff, with sort of a fast, hardcore edge. Twenty songs about...well, not a whole lot really. How these guys ended up on GMM is a mystery to me, sounds more like NRA stuff. I don't want to totally tear it down, I'll listen to it every now and then. GMM Records -IAN

•THE VIOLATORS 'THE NO FUTURE YEARS'CD This is a collection of everything that this influential band. Even some stuff that the band members later did as side projects, nothing short of sounding like Joy Division. While they were together as a band, they turned out some memorable Oi tunes. "Live Fast, Die Young" being a fine example. "Summer Of '81", the A-side, was hailed as THE punk single of 1982 by that now-king of tabloids, Garry Bushell. Described once in Sounds as "the sort of menace music that Alex and the droogs would make if they were locked in a studio all night". Check out the dual male/female vocals from Helen & Stylesy over the driving rhythms, real savage. 14 songs in all, this is a piece of street music history. The Harry May Record Co. (no address, I got my copy thru Vulture Rock mailorder)

STEVE MATTHEWS
Freelance Artist
"Serving the Punk Rock Community"



Route 3 Box 364
Bluefield, Virginia
24605 U.S.A.

Phone (540) 322-5616
E-mail Punknaut@hotmail.com.



Charlie, Susanna, Collin, & Sam of ^{THE} IN-CITERS



BOWER 96 & CREW



From Austin, Texas comes the LOWER CLASS BRATS. Their new CD, 'Better To Be Hated Than Ignored' is out soon on GMM Records. In the meantime, check out the interview done back in Feb. with Bones. Enjoy!

ROI-Ok, the basic stuff first. Who's in the Lower Class Brats?

BONES-Right now, at this moment? Uh, it's me on vocals, Marty on guitar, this guy Huston on bass, and Rob on drums. Rick, our bass player, he's still in the band. He's been having problems with his stomach, keeping down food and he gets really car-sick. He's been at home getting well, but he should be back soon.

ROI-And when did LCB start out?

BONES-As a full unit, we started in early 1995. Marty and I started the band in Jan. '95, started writing songs like "Riot In Hyde Park" and brought them out. We got Rick and he was friends with Rob. We started playing shows, our first show was in Sept. of '95. We played with The Varukers. First time we ever played, that was really cool for a first show, I mean, getting to play with the Varukers.

ROI-Also, influences and/or favorite bands?

BONES-Personally, I'm really into the "clockwork" bands like The Adicts and Major Accident. I'm really into all different kinds of music. I like everything from The Pogues to Rose Tattoo to whatever. Influentially, in the band right now, like Marty is a really big Motorhead fan. If you listen to, especially our new stuff, you can kind of hear that. Our next LP, actually, we are going to be doing "Vibrator" by Motorhead on there, that's a great song.

ROI-Yeah, you mentioned The Adicts, and they're like one of my favorite bands of all time and...

BONES-Yeah, I could tell from the name of your zine, 'cause when

you first contacted me and I heard the name In The Background the song started to go through my head, from 'Songs Of Praise'. The Adicts were one of the first bands that I ever saw back in 1983, with Peter & The Test Tube Babies. They absolutely changed my life. Huge clockwork fan, I've even got the bloody eyeballs tattooed on the back of my wrists. I love it.

ROI-Yeah, that's cool. Alright, what records does the band have out so far? Run down the discography for us.

BONES-Ok, here we go. The first single, 'Who Writes Your Rules?' on Helen Of Oi Records. Second single was the 'Ultraviolence' EP which was a split with The Reducers. Third, 'Wrench In The Gear' 7", and then the split with The Dead End Cruisers. Then we did a split with The Templars. No, then it was the 12"EP on Punk Core. We just had an LP come out on this French label, Combat Rock, w/ the first three singles on it.

ROI-How did the split with The Templars come about, anyway?

BONES-Well, this guy Mark who owns T.K.O. Records called us up & what he wanted basically was a punk band and a skinhead band. And I guess our name came up and we were all stoked to do it. Mark's cool though, he paid for all the recording and all. We were all stoked to be on a split with The Templars, you know?

ROI-So what's the Oi & punk scene in Texas like these days?

BONES-Well, there isn't really one. Like, around here, there's a band called The Oi-sters, they're good. The Dead End Cruisers, they play more like '77-type stuff, like SLF or something. There is another band that I just heard called Swine System. I think they're from Dallas, really good streetpunk. Overall, that's it. But Texas is huge, and it's hard to find out about all of these bands, you know?

ROI-Who are The Chumps, you covered one of their songs on that 12"EP that you guys did. They're a local band, right?

BONES-Yeah, they're local. Though they're not really an Oi band, they're more like a full-on punk band, early sound like The Angry Samoans or something. They're good.

ROI-Talk a little about The LCB Army. What exactly is it?

BONES-Ok, the LCB Army started out as just a name for all of the people that came to our shows and supported us. We made up badges for them and not to long after that we got people from all over writing to us for the badges and stuff. It's cool.

ROI-Have you gotten to play outside of Texas much?

BONES-The only time that we've played outside of Texas, we played in New Orleans with Blanks 77 and One Common Voice. We're supposed to play Mardi Gras next month, and at the end of March to play with The Business up in Oklahoma. That's going to be a great fuckin' show.

ROI-Are there any bands that you would like to play with, any of the old bands that have gotten back together?

BONES-Personally, I'd like to play with Major Accident, of course or maybe Cocksparrer. Geez, I keep hearing that The Adicts are going to tour again, I'd love to do something like that. Just the classic bands like that, that have been around, you know?

ROI-Alright, Bones, you've done artwork for your band and some others. What are some of the things that you've worked on?

BONES-Well, I've done stuff for Blanks 77, Quincy Punx, Gutter-mouth, a few compilations. I really haven't been doing that much artwork 'cause of the band taking up a lot of my time. I mean, I really enjoy drawing but it gets too much sometimes having to work on other things and writing songs.

ROI-What's your personal opinion of the Oi/punk scene here in the States?

BONES-I think it's really good. I mean, I think that it's getting kind of trendy right now. You even have crust bands playing Oi now. Though, even some of those bands are good, like Defiance. If your heart is in the right place and you're at least doing good music. And to me, music is all that matters really. Bands like the Dropkick Murphys, or Bovver Wonderland and The Choice are just brilliant. Battle Cry, I like them a lot. The scene is growing and I think that it can only get better. I mean, it's so young here in the U.S., you know? Marty and I talk about this all the time, and we're always going to play music that we love. We're not stopping.

ROI-I think that as long as there's always people into it, if it's two or two-thousand, it will always live on.

BONES-Right, right. It's bigger than it ever was right now. I do think that that is a good thing.

ROI-It's really strong here in the U.S. I think a lot of the bands have the right attitude.

BONES-Yeah, it's all about the power of the music. I mean, having a beer and having a laugh, I love it. It wakes me up in the morning and it puts me to sleep at night.

ROI-Absolutely. And is there anything that you think needs to be changed in order for it to grow?

BONES-I think that there's people out there who still let the politics get in the way of the music. I was talking to this guy today, and he won't come see us play at a certain club because on certain nights, rockabilly bands play there and boneheads attend. I mean, look, you're not helping anything, you're just as bad as they are now. It's like, what the fuck? Come in, enjoy the music, have a good time. I think that's the only thing, there's still people with that kind of mentality. That has to stop. Everything else I think is great.

ROI-Alright, the million-dollar question, what's your favorite brew?

BONES-I think you already know the answer to this one(laughs). The classic quote-any beer is good as long as there's enough to go around.

ROI-That always works. Any thing else you want to add?

BONES-I was reading in your first issue, in the interview with The Subversives, and (more laughs) it's like he said -Sorry to the people who we haven't gotten back to yet. We still have everything, we have our shit. We've been really lame on mail lately. Everything's been pretty hectic around here. We're trying to write a new LP. You will get your stuff though, don't worry. Um, I don't know, I guess that's it. I do think that if everyone sticks to their guns, we can make the American scene the best in the world. Everyone stand strong.

Write to: (include a stamp or IRC for reply)

Lower Class Brats
P.O.Box 4333
Austin, TX. 78765
(U.S.A)

Lower Class Brats

punks, skins, herborts & hooligans

As the ska and punk scenes in the U.S. begin to grow, how should we view the inclusion of the masses? Most of us consider these scenes as much more than just music. It's the same wherever you go, they call it a family, a lifeline. Sounds silly, after all, it's just music, right? Wrong! For many of us a family is just what it is. That's simply, or not so simply actually why we take offense to the newfound, and seemingly evergrowing acceptance for the music. Why people get upset is because the music they've lived and died for is now being used to sell cars and the like. So we feel scorned. Personally I felt odd when America's Funniest Videos had all ska background

music, or when the Ramones were used in a Today commercial. The basic idea is that these people don't have their hearts and souls in the music like we do. Their hearts and souls are in the almighty dollar! Why is it that I can't listen to the Toasters in my car without getting weird looks, but ska can be used to sell Coke. Granted the music in my car is quite loud, we'll just put that aside for the moment. Many of us have lived lives secluded from everyone (probably better off anyway) because of this music. We become angry with the fact that people accept this simply because they're told to. So the real truth is that we're jealous! Before you run me out on a rail, let me explain. When we all got into the scene we cursed the fact that what we praised the rest of society was blind to. We hoped that there would be more coverage, more sources, more people. Now we've got it and all we do is complain. The argument from most is that the big companies are hand selecting who they want and market it as punk or ska. Lots of times they miss the mark (by far). The masses simply take it for what they're told it is. As it was written in the Gathering, "is it [their] fault for not knowing, or is it the companies fault for marketing it that way?" Many of us can write it off saying the most of the bands aren't that good anyway. What if that wasn't the case, let's say that the Templars suddenly stepped into the limelight, then what would we say? We say that it would never happen, so why even think about it? Why do we suddenly get defensive? How would popularity change the band? If the bands mentality is right the only difference would be that little Warren down the street, who swore on Tesla not to long back, would buy the new Templars, not through mailorder, but from the Sam Goody down the street. The same place that was worth a pile of shit to you for not having anything that you wanted. Damned if you do, damned if you don't. Speaking of the Damned though is proof that popularity can make a band go to shit. Why is that? We assume that fame went to their heads. Well, you know what they say when you assume... Maybe bands change because the fans that were there for them through their upbringing turn on them and run the mention of a peak amount of record sales. Could be 5,000 could be 30,000, we'll call you sellout when we want to. There could be good things ahead though. Out of the arty punk scene of the late 70's came the brilliant oi! scene of the early 80's, and aren't we all better for it!? If it stayed underground, how would it be? Sure, that old hag down the street will still quiver when you walked down the street, but the music (the real important thing) might have suffered. Maybe it would've died. Out of the wreckage came something worth holding on to. Last years monicar was 77' in 97'. I look forward to 79' in 99'! Tear down these excuses for punk and ska, we'll survive and grow on what's left. We'll always be here, sort of like a fungus! And don't worry about little Warren, as soon as Tesla announces their reunion tour he'll be on the road and forgotten about who the Templars even were. Hang on kidsit's gonna be a bumpy ride, but it'll be over soon enough. If you don't like it Fuck You! Talk your trash, when you come back and deem it cool again we'll remember. You got a better theory? Don't be shy, write and let me hear it.

-IAN

Dropkick Murphys

The following interview with Matt Kelly of the Dropkick Murphys was done back in Feb. They're out now on the road with The Business. Go check 'em out. Until then, read on.

Roi-Ok, where did the name come from?

Matt-There was this guy, this wrestler guy in the 1920's and 30's here in Boston called Dropkick Murphy. He started a dry out clinic for alcoholics during the Depression. So, it's a Boston thing.

ROI-When did you join the band?

MATT-I've been in the band since May '97.

ROI-When did the band start out and what's the lineup?

MATT-The band started out about two years ago, doing covers & junk in a basement of a barber shop. The line-up, ok, right now it's Mike McColgan on vocals, Rick Barton on guitar, Ken Casey on bass, and had this guy Jeff on drums. He was from that Boston band, The Freeze. Anyway, he couldn't tour so they got me, Matt.

ROI-That's cool. Alright, how did the band get on the 'Give Em The Boot' compilation on HellCat Records?

MATT-I wasn't in the band when then, but what the deal was that they were going to do an LP for some label and they heard that Lars Fredriksen from Rancid was going to produce it, so they figured they'd make him a tape, but somehow that guy, what's his name? Tim Armstrong got ahold of it and he asked them if they wanted to be on it and eventually asked them to do an LP for HellCat, too.

ROI-So, HellCat treats the band pretty good then?

MATT-Oh yeah, they're really cool. They're really helpful, they make it feel like a small-time label.

ROI-So, the LP comes out tomorrow, huh?

MATT-Yeah! I've heard a lot of people already have copies of it for like a month now. I don't know how that works, I mean the damn thing hasn't even come out yet, you know?

ROI-You guys do a bunch of Clash covers at your gigs.

MATT-Well, we're kinda veering away from that. We do "Career Opportunities" and a punk version of "Guns Of Brixton". Some people don't appreciate our version of it, though.

ROI-Who influences you, and the band in general?

MATT-Oh, there's lots.AC/DC, The Stiffs, The Pogues, Skrewdriver Cockney Rejects, lots of early Oi bands and also stuff like the Rolling Stones and stuff.Rick's been playing a lot longer so he's got a lot of earlier influences.

ROI-What about the old Boston Hardcore?

MATT-Oh, I love that shit, it makes me want to put my head thru a wall.Jerry's Kids, FU's, The Freeze, Gang Green, Impact Unit. That's the real hardcore. That's my first love before all the Oi stuff.

ROI-Yeah, cool.I figured that they fit in somewhere.Ok, the Boston scene seems to be pretty good right now, what with the Trouble, Ducky Boys, All Systems Stop.What do you think about the scene?

MATT-Oh yeah, the bands are really good here. Actually All Systems Stop has broken up, they're all doing different projects now. The Big Bad Bollocks are really good.

ROI-Yeah, I've been hearing a lot of good stuff about them.

MATT-Yeah, they're like a pub rock band, the Pogues mixed with the Macc Lads, guitar, bass, tin whistle, squeeze box. They are an awesome band. And there's Showcase Showdown, they're really big. The Unseen, Carpet Patrol, The Pinkerton Thugs, 30 Seconds Over Tokyo, which are like the modern version of the FU's. They're all great bands. There was a show a couple of weeks ago with The Trouble, Pinkerton Thugs. There were over 600 people there. Granted the Casualties were supposed to play but everyone knew they canceled and they all still came.



ROI-Yeah, it seems like there's a lot of good stuff going on there.

MATT-Yeah, lots of new bands are cropping up, like this band The Vigilantes. Kids are very supportive around here.

ROI-How did the split with the Ducky Boys come about?

MATT-I think it was the first release on Ken's label, Flat Records. That was the first thing that I bought from the D.M.'s. The band started up together and started to play together and stuff. So they put it out.

ROI-What are the future plans for the Dropkick Murphys?

MATT-Well, from the end of February until the end of May we're touring the U.S. with the Business and maybe in May, we will get to go to Europe and the U.K. And we've got about ten songs down for another album. We want to have that out by the end of the year. Basically, we want to work real hard at it and tour as much as possible. That's the way to do it.

ROI-Who are those old guys on the 'Tattoos & Scally Caps' cover how'd they make it on there?

MATT-Oh, they're these guys from Quincy. They're these tough old bastards from the neighborhood. It was probably Ken's idea to do it. It's pretty tough. They may be making repeat appearances for us.

ROI-That's great. Anything else you want to mention?

MATT-Well, hi to all the good bands out there, the Templars, uh, Anti-Heros, East Coast Oi bands and West Coast Oi bands like the Authority, Randumb, Workin' Stiffs, One Man Army, all those Boston bands. And thanks for your help interviewing. I hope the zine goes well. Oh yeah, an' our address -

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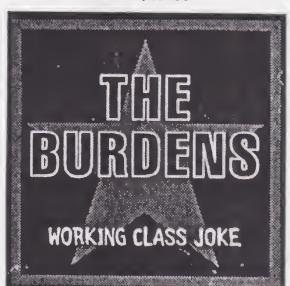
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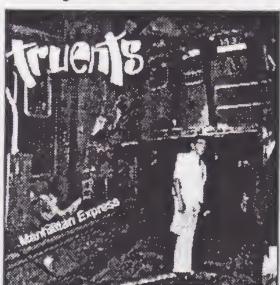
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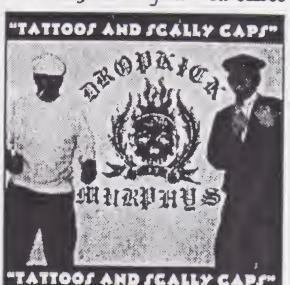
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